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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/602,236

06/24/2003

Bruce H. Storm

1391-34500

8527

23505

7590

09/21/2006

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EXAMINER

VERBITSKY, GAIL KAPLAN

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2859

DATE MAILED: 09/21/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/602,236

Applicant(s)

STORM ET AL.

Examiner

Gail Verbitsky

Art Unit

2859

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 11 July 2006.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) See Continuation Sheet is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 26,29-44,49,66 and 85-89 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 45-48,50-55,57-65,67 and 68 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1,3-8,11-15,17-25,27,28,69,70,72-76,78,80, 82--84 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 2,73 and 81 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- ☐ Other: _____

Continuation of Disposition of Claims: Claims pending in the application are 1-8,11-15,17-25,27,28,45-48,50-55,57-65,67-70,72-76,78 and 80-84.

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

2. Claims 1, 3-8, 11-12, 15, 25, 27-28, 69-70, 72-76, 78, 80,

82- 84 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Flores (U.S. 5701751).

Flores discloses in Figs. 1-11 a device in the field of applicant's endeavor. Flores emphasizes the need of actively cooling a downhole logging tool electronics (col. 4, lines 61-62). Flores discloses a thermal component (heat generating component) 37 in a hot borehole environment, in thermal communication with a hot heat exchanger 24, 39 a thermal conduit system (heat pipes) 43 thermally coupling the heat exchanger 39 with a low tank (heat storage/ heat sink) 50 of water (eutectic heat phase change liquid) and all within a Dewar flask/ thermal barrier/ jacket (col. 5, line 47). The heat storage 50 is capable to manage the temperature of the component by removing/ absorbing an excessive heat from the component when necessary and storing the heat and dissipating the heat. The heat sink/ heat storage 50 absorbs heat from the overheated thermal component. The heat storage stores the heat for some time till a cooling liquid in the heat storage boils (phase change to steam/ gas), and, thus, the heat storage reaches its capacity. Then, the heat from the heat storage is removed by a compressor pumping (pump) the heat/ steam from the cooling agent in the heat storage, and condensing the steam into the cooling agent. The device, inherently, has a valve, for controlling the cooling fluid flow. It is also

inherent, that, as shown above, the system is working as a closed loop system. The thermal component is a heat-generating component that overheats during operating or, inherently, when the environment (borehole) overheats.

The heat exchanger, the heat storage and the thermal conduit are located in the downhole tool.

The method steps will be met during the normal operation of the device stated above.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claims 13-14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Flores in view of Boesen (U.S. 4375157).

Flores discloses the device/ method as stated above.

Although Flores teaches a Dewar flask thermal insulation, Flores does not explicitly teach all the limitations of claims 13-14.

Boesen discloses a device in the field of applicant's endeavor including a vacuum insulated (evacuated) Dewar flask container.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the device disclosed by Flores, so as to have a vacuum insulated/ evacuated thermally insulated container, as taught by Boesen, so as to better control the temperature of the cooling fluid, and thus, to achieve sufficient thermal component cooling.

5. Claims 17-18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Flores.

Flores discloses the device/ method as stated above.

Flores does not explicitly teach a plurality of heat exchangers and the particular sized pump.

With respect to claim 17: having a plurality of heat exchangers, absent any criticality, is only considered to be an obvious modification of the system disclosed by Flores. While the addition of multiple heat exchangers to the concept of Flores undoubtedly makes the invention more useful with a plurality of heat exchangers, it is not the type of innovation for which a patent monopoly is to be granted. See In re St. Regis Paper Co. v. Bemis Co., Inc., 193 USPQ 8, 11 (7th Cir. 1977).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the system disclosed by Flores, so as to have a plurality of heat exchangers, so as to provide the operator with fast and efficient cooling system.

6. Claims 17-24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Flores in view of Drube et al. (U.S. 6799429) [hereinafter Drube].

Flores discloses the device/ method as stated above.

Flores does not explicitly teach a plurality of heat exchangers parallel or in series, as stated in claims 17-24.

Drube discloses a cooling device comprising a section of parallel-connected heat exchangers and a section of serially connected heat exchangers that provide a maximum fluid flow capability.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the system disclosed by Flores, so as to have a plurality of parallel and serially connected heat exchangers, as taught by Drube, so as to provide a maximum fluid flow capability, as already suggested by Drube.

Allowable Subject Matter

7. Claims 2, 73, 81 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claims 45-48, 50-55, 57-65, 67-68 are allowed.

Response to Arguments

8. Applicant's arguments filed on July 11, 2006 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

Conclusion

9. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Gail Verbitsky whose telephone number is 571/ 272-2253. The examiner can normally be reached on 7:30 to 4:00 ET.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Diego Gutierrez can be reached on 571/ 272-2245. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Art Unit: 2859

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

GKV

Gail Verbitsky

Primary Patent Examiner, TC 2800



September 14, 2006